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CONFIDENTIAL

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GENERAL

1. US assurances to Arab states urged--The US Consulate General in Jerusalem suggests that, in order to restore peace in Palestine and long-term stability in the Middle East, the US should give assurances to the Arab states that the US is prepared to make strongest representations to Israel against the threat or use of force both during and after the 26 April peace negotiations at Lausanne. The Consulate believes that such assurances are necessary in order to restore Arab confidence and to free the Arabs from fear of the kind of military pressure they experienced during the recent armistice negotiations. The Consulate adds that postponement until September of the Israeli application for UN membership would demonstrate to Israel that it cannot continue to ignore world opinion with impunity.

S-TS

2. Socialist stand on German constitution believed not final-- Acting US Political Adviser Riddleberger in Berlin expresses his view that the Socialist Party (SPD) resolution against the west German draft constitution, which at first seemed like an ultimatum, has in fact left the door open to further negotiation. Riddleberger believes that the resolution must be considered in the light of the SPD contention that it is the political party which stands most clearly for German ideas and rights. Riddleberger suggests that if the SPD does make concessions, the Christian Democratic Party may assume a more adamant position at Bonn.

S-S

(CIA Comment: CIA agrees that the SPD will be willing to continue negotiations but believes that the SPD will now seek to gain more substantial concessions on the draft constitution than it demanded prior to the Party resolution.)

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